

# SACRAMENTO DAILY RECORD-UNION.

VOLUME LXXIX.-NO. 1.

SACRAMENTO, SATURDAY, FEBRUARY 22, 1890.

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WHOLE NO. 12,090.

## WASHINGTON CULLINGS.

The Democrats Will Test Reed's Ruling in the Courts.

## BIDDING FOR ALASKAN SEALS.

World's Fair Debate in the House

-A Tariff Bill to Reduce the Revenue.

[SPECIAL DISPATCHES TO THE RECORD-UNION.]

## IRRIGATION BILL.

A Substitute Measure to be Submitted to Congress.

WASHINGTON, February 21st.—Great interest is being manifested in Congress on the subject of irrigation of the Western plains. The House and Senate committees have held a number of meetings to consider bills which have been introduced in the Senate and House embodying irrigation projects. None of these are likely to be adopted.

A new bill is now being formulated as the result of numerous conferences between Major Powell and members of the Irrigation Committee. This will probably be submitted to Congress in the course of a week or ten days, provides for the creation of irrigation districts by hydrographic stations. This districts will necessarily cross State lines. In some cases all reservoirs will be in one State and the land to be irrigated will be in another, thus raising a perplexing problem of jurisdiction. The bill will provide for the creation of a local Government similar to that given to a county Government, enabling settlers to control their affairs absolutely, subject only to the laws of the State and the land to be irrigated.

The bill provides that after a certain number of years, during which an irrigating company shall be paid for its services, their rights shall become the property of the settlers themselves. No settler can acquire more than eighty acres of irrigable land.

The Attorney-General of the United States, the Secretary of the Interior and Secretary of Agriculture are to constitute a National Board of Irrigation Commissioners, to whom appeals from a State irrigation board may be made. The irrigation district are authorized to elect District Commissioners for Irrigation, and the District Court a Superintendent of Irrigation. Forestry and pasture are also provided for.

This bill may be said to represent the popular phase of the irrigation question, as it proposes to divide the lands among the settlers either at the rate of \$1.25 an acre, or free under the homestead bill, or to enable them to own the water and protect themselves from monopolists and from greedy corporations.

The other projects before Congress provides either to hand over the arid lands and the water to the irrigation districts or to buy them reclaimed, and sold at whatever price they can get upon them, or to have the Federal Government go to the expense of irrigating and then sell the reclaimed lands to the highest bidder. It is estimated that after reclamation the lands now arid would be worth from \$30 to \$50 an acre.

The bill above outlined, which may be called the Powell bill, will, if it becomes a law, enable the people to take the lands and irrigate them by borrowing money, they to have the benefit of all increment resulting from the increased value.

## APACHE QUESTION.

Lieutenant Vernon has Something to Say About Miles.

WASHINGTON, February 21st.—Lieutenant Vernon of General Crooks staff, to-day submitted in behalf of the Secretary of War and General Crooks, a statement to the House of Representatives, on the Apache question. He took issue with the statement made by General Miles and others that Fort Sill was a healthy situation, and says that if the Apaches were removed there it would be almost impossible for them to cross the country and reach their old haunts in Mexico and Arizona. Major Miles had given repeated assurances of the security which would result to the Territories of Arizona and New Mexico if the Indians were removed to Fort Sill. They surrendered to General Miles on condition that their lives should be spared; that no harm should come to them, and that they could seek their own joint and friendly home which had already surrendered and had been sent East.

He spoke in high terms of the Apache scouts. Miles, he said, began and energetically pursued the campaign for months without gaining a step, until having exhausted all other means, he employed two Chiricahua Indians, Arizona, who became traitors to the hostiles and directed their surrender. That removal of Fort Sill should be made was agreed to by the President, Secretary of War, and all the Major-Generals of the army, and they had called upon Congress for authority to right a great wrong and to remove what the President, with full knowledge of the facts, had characterized as a reproach to the nation.

## REED'S RULING.

The Democrats Will Bring It into the Courts.

NEW YORK, February 21st.—A bill will be introduced from the House of Representatives very shortly calling upon the President to appoint a commission to act with a similar commission to be appointed by Mexico for the purpose of more accurately defining the boundary between the two countries and adjusting various difficulties that constantly arise along the border. Bills commonly known as "boundary bills" will be introduced to solve the question as to the division of the water supply of the Rio Grande between the farmers of Mexico and New Mexico.

**Suppression of Lotteries.**

WASHINGTON, February 21st.—Senator Sawyer has introduced a bill amending certain sections of the Revised Statutes relative to lotteries, providing that no letter or circular notice of a lottery or sweepstakes shall be sent through the mails.

A press representative drove to Fort Snelling to-night and was the first to convey to private Wild the news that his outrageous sentence had been commuted by the President. Wild could hardly believe it, but when finally convinced, he broke down and cried like a child.

committee appointed by the Congress, has also done a great deal of valuable work. The committee has gone largely into the question of routes and conditions of trade, and will make the conditions of a great trans-continental railway, connecting the route across Mexico with the railway system now being constructed in Chile and the Argentine Republic.

This will be truly a stupendous undertaking, but the delegates to the Congress see no reason why such a road should not be constructed, with the aid that could be very readily extended by the United States and the Latin Republics.

## SEAL FISHERIES.

Twelve Bids for the Privilege of Catching Alaskan Seals.

WASHINGTON, February 21st.—Secretary Windom was in Sacramento yesterday, and was interested in the negotiations of the bids for the privilege of catching seals in Alaska during twenty years, from May 1st next. Secretary Windom presided, and was assisted by Assistant Secretary Tichenor, while Director of the Min. Leech, First Comptroller Matthews and Chief of the Stationery Division Sturtevant, of the Second District.

**CONGRESSIONAL.**

WASHINGTON, February 21st.—The Senate Conference report on the bill to increase the pensions to totally disabled pensioners was presented to the House yesterday, and the bill was referred to the Committee on Postmaster-General's limited postal telegraph scheme.

**Back to the White House.**

WASHINGTON, February 21st.—The President and party returned from Pittsburg at 9:30 this morning, and at once were driven to the White House.

**Major Anderson Confirmed.**

WASHINGTON, February 21st.—Among the confirmations to day was Supervisor of the Census of California, W. A. Anderson, of the Second District.

**THE NORTH DAKOTA LOTTERY.**

Wrestler Faulkner Wins a Match

—Northern Pacific Railroad Improvements.

[SPECIAL DISPATCHES TO THE RECORD-UNION.]

## EAST OF THE ROCKIES.

Proposition to Reorganize the Great Sugar Trust.

THE NORTH DAKOTA LOTTERY.

Wrestler Faulkner Wins a Match

—Northern Pacific Railroad Improvements.

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## SOUTH AMERICA.

## OVER SOUTH AMERICAN SIERRAS ON MULE BACK.

The Great Magdalena Valley—The Banana and the Black Man—A Novel Trip.

[Special Correspondence of the RECORD-UNION.]  
BARRANQUILLA, Colombia, 1890.

Though distant from New York scarcely two thousand miles, this northernmost Republic of the southern continent is almost known to the world than the heart of Africa; and its 300-year-old capital is almost as difficult of access. Until recently there has been no communication between the ports of the United States and those of Colombia, its nearest neighbor, and to this day there is no direct way of reaching them.

Some four years ago an English company established a line of steamers between New York and the mouth of the Magdalena river (the great fluvial highway to Colombia's interior) by which two trips per month are made; but the vessels go first to several West India ports, consuming fifteen days in the voyage to Colombia. Three times a month the Pacific Mail steamers leave New York for Aspinwall; and at the latter place one may always find a steamer under almost any flag but the stars and stripes, which will stop at the Caribbean ports on its way to Europe.

But when we have reached this point the journey to Colombia's capital has hardly begun. Before you is a short railroad ride to Barranquilla, and then 280 miles by boat up the river to Honda, near the head of navigation (occupying from ten to thirty days, according to the time of year); and from Honda to Bogota, the capital city, though only a distance of 70 miles, is the worst part of the trip, requiring at least

FOUR DAYS ON MULE-BACK,

Over sky-piercing sierras. Though with such a stretch of sea-coast, Colombia possesses no harbor worthy the name—those of Aspinwall and Panama being the best. Besides the last named insecure and rocky port, there is but one other on the Pacific side, that of Buenaventura, which has lately been brought into some degree of prominence. On the Atlantic coast, or more correctly speaking, that of the Caribbean sea, the only shipping place for Colombian commerce is Sabanilla; both Aspinwall and Panama being merely ports of transit trade, with so little of local industry that primeval forests close upon them.

Sabanilla itself is the most desolate and dirty of fishing villages, of no consequence whatever except for its bay, which, though totally inaccessible to large vessels, has been made to answer the purposes of a seaport, by a company of enterprising Germans. In 1871 some Bremen gentlemen put lights and steam-tugs on Sabanilla bay, for the benefit of larger vessels that could not come into it, and laid a line of railroad from the coast to the old Spanish town of Barranquilla, sixteen miles inland. The consequence is that the latter hitherto insignificant village of hardly twenty houses has suddenly blossomed out into the most important city in the republic, commercially speaking, with a population of 25,000, and still growing, far eclipsing the old cities of Cartagena and Santa Marta, lying on either side of it, both of which figured so conspicuously in the Spanish colonial history of earlier days.

The Custom-house, now located in Barranquilla (pronounced Bahr-kan-kieh), and through it must go all imports and passengers bound for "up the river" or coming down from Colombia's interior into the outer world. Also, every small steamer and sailing vessel which conveys the multitudinous products of the vast back-lying country to the coast, via the Magdalena, must start from and return to this place and wait for official permission before its cargo can be discharged. To return to

SABANILLA,

The village is not situated on the main land, but on a long and narrow sand-spit that has formed itself at the mouth of the river. Its bay is neither safe nor convenient for any sort of vessels, being full of shifting sand-bars and exposed to the fury of tropical storms. Not a green thing grows within sight of Sabanilla, and nobody lives there but a miserable colony of *cargadores*, or boatmen, and a few even more degraded saloon-keepers, who absorb all the money the wretches earn, in exchange for the vilest of native intoxicants. All up and down the coasts of South America the *cargadores* are necessary evils—as there are few places where vessels can approach the shore—and those of Colombia are mostly Canary Islands, with a liberal sprinkling of low-class Italians and a few Chinamen. Their palm-thatched huts are fifty beyond description, but not more so than the occupants—men and women more than half unclothed, and their numerous offspring entirely so.

There is not a drop of fresh water in the place; all that is dropped is being brought in caskets from a point about eight miles up the river. Yet the water business is not brisk, though retailed by the dapperful, for a very small quantity serves for the meager cooking of the *cargadores*. While cheap liquor (dear at any price) is the universal beverage. Even less is used for lavatory purposes, fresh or salt, though the wide ocean, rolling up to their doors, furnishes as fine bathing facilities as can be found in any quarter of the globe. Indeed, the people seem to entertain

A HYDROPHOBIC TERROR

Of water in any form; and the pig-tailed Celestial who runs the only laundry in the place, looks like a sad case of slow starvation.

Woe unto the luckless traveler who is compelled to stay over night in Sabanilla's alleged hotel! If his vessel arrives too late in the day for a train to Barranquilla, he will do well to remain on board until the morrow; or if his commander cannot be induced to risk a "norther" among the sand-bars, he would better walk the sixteen miles, that intervene between the coast and civilization. In this desperate community of roustabouts, fighting is the chief amusement; and murder and robbery are of common occurrence. But even were the Sabanillans angels in disguise, the place would be intolerable on account of excessive heat and swarming fleas. Were it not for the ocean breezes that constantly sweep across the desolate sand-spit, blowing up the sand in blinding clouds, no human being could abide thereon. At every step in its pawless streets you sink deep into the bottom sand, every infinitesimal grain of which is loaded with a flea, whose sting is like the puncture of a red-hot needle. About the only industrious citizens I have found so far in South America are the "wicked fleas." In five minutes time they will completely blacken your hose and cover your garments inside and out; nor cease from troubling until you are tattooed from head to foot like a Sea Islander.

BARRANQUILLA

Is by all odds the most modern town in Colombia—unless it may be Aspinwall—having many handsome houses and a considerable foreign colony. Some of the principal merchants of the republic live here, most of them Germans, who maintain considerable style and entertain generous hospitality, although living is unusually high. Commanding, as it does, the only outlet from the interior, this New York of the Caribbean coast is of no small consequence, from a military as well as a commercial standpoint, and a considerable

garrison is maintained here. Barranquilla is the capital of the "Department" (formerly State) of Sabanilla, and during the revolution of four years ago was the headquarters of the insurrectionary army. Though just now all is quiet throughout the country, the "powers that be" know well that eternal vigilance is the price of peace, and that the spirit of revolution, born in the blood and bred in the bone of these inconstant people, is not dead, but sleepeth.

Unlike most South American ports, Barranquilla has an excellent wharf. Several steamship companies are running vessels on the Magdalena, two of them capitalised by United States capital. The principal line, however, is German, and dead or alive, I will never see.

What a rare field is this for the alligator hunter! Considering the value of the skins and the enormous demand for them in the manufacture of shoes, satchels, etc., the wonder grows why some thrifty Yankee has not thought himself that fortunes lie in the exhaustless crop.

BOARD A MAGDALENA STEAMER.

By simply covering their sides with corrugated iron, mounting small cannon upon the decks and filling the cabins with sharp-shooters.

The great river itself is a natural curiosity, traversing the whole country from south to north, draining an enormous area of mountains covered with perpetual snow and forming the sole outlet for several Colombian States. Its water is as muddy as the Missouri and as swift as the Mississippi, which it greatly resembles. So strong is the yellow tide and so full of sediment that it will not mix readily with the salt water of the sea, but can be distinctly traced for many miles. In some places it is scarcely a hundred feet wide, in others eight or ten miles. Its channel, having never been well cleared, is full of snags, sand-bars and floating logs, making the pilot's position by no means a safe one.

The boats are mostly built like those used on the Ohio river, with a paddle wheel near the stern, and only a foot or two of water even when laden to their utmost capacity, as otherwise they could never get over the sand-bars. During the rainy season the swollen current is so swift and strong that progress is necessarily very slow; but when the moon is bright the boats are kept in motion both night and day. At other times they can run only by daylight and must "tie up" every night. They generally run around a few miles during every trip, and then it requires from two days to a week before they can be pulled off and set in motion again, thus rendering the date of one's arrival at the journey's end one of the most uncertain things in this uncertain world.

If you wish to murder your worst enemy by the most diabolical form of torture that the imagination can conceive, just persuade him to make a trip up the Magdalena river at the height of the mosquito season sans netting, veil or other protection! The locality is infested with

THE BIGGEST THING EVER BUZZED,

And passengers must not fail to provide themselves with everything attainable in the way of offense and defense against them. All the officers and deck-hands wear thick veils over their faces, tied closely around the neck, and long buckskin gloves both night and day; and yet, somehow, the enemy seems to come off more or less victorious. It is the fashion hereabouts to tell mosquito stories of astonishing proportions, such as the people around Puget Sound bring up the month of June, and the Californians of their fruits. But I tell you that the tales told can hardly exceed the reality. Always bad enough, at certain seasons when winds blow strong from the jungles the mosquitoes come in clouds that literally obscure the sky, and the sound of their humming is like the noise of a sawmill. Neither man nor beast can withstand their attacks, unprotected, and it is an actual fact that cattle and horses are frequently tormented to death by them. I am told that not long ago a herd of valuable cattle, which were being imported from the United States to a rancho up the river, became perfectly frantic after a week of untold agony, broke from their fastenings, dashed overboard and were all drowned.

The long-nosed flat-bottomed little steamer upon which we are passengers has her engine and all the cargo above water, on the first deck. Above this is the saloon, with the cabin on either side, and still above this is the captain's cabin, surrounded by a steeple-like pilot-house. Directly in front of the saloon are the tall, black chimneys, taller than even the watch-tower, and in front of them is the flagstaff, from which float the Colombian colors. All around the upper deck are rows of benches, and away up here is the best place to find what little air may be stirring.

THE GREAT VALLEY

Of the Magdalena extending from the Cauca to the northern Sierras in width from 100 to 170 miles, narrowing to

as it nears the confines of Ecuador.

It embraces a region of inexhaustible resources, much of it overgrown with primeval forests, among whose gigantic growths may be found a great diversity of building timber, besides the choicest cabinet and dye woods, and a tropical profusion of growing and medicinal plants.

Going up from Barranquilla, for the first 200 miles one sees little, at this time of year, but a continuous swamp on either side. The river itself, directly at the mouth, is fully a mile and a half wide, and its lower valley is one vast alluvial plain, which, like the Nile region, is subject to periodical overflow. For three hundred miles the most magnificent grazing lands stretch away on either side, which are covered with cattle during most of the year, just before the floods that follow the rainy season, when they are driven up the mountain. Wherever the land has been cultivated it shows surprising fertility, and the overflow freight easily controlled and turned into a blessing, by a system of dikes similar to those in use on the lower Mississippi. Those inclined to emigrate need not wrestle for standing room at Oklahoma among a multitude of crazy squatters when here are vast tracts of the richest land in the world, to be had for the asking.

Years ago there were profitable plantations, worked by negroes, all up and down the middle valley; but after the emancipation of slavery, which took place, I believe in 1858, the estates rapidly went to ruin, and were finally abandoned by their owners. It seems that the Spaniards and the Indians cannot endure hard labor in this climate, and neither love nor lustre could induce the ex-slaves to do a stroke of work. To-day the once rich plantations show no traces of former cultivation, being completely overgrown with the vicious vegetation of the tropics, while the negroes themselves have relapsed into a state of semi-barbarism. It is the same old story, disastrously true, of every part of the world where

THE BANANA AND THE BLACK MAN

Flourish spontaneously side by side. Since nature has provided so generously for him and he has no ambition to gratify, why should he not emulate the scriptural example of the lilies, which toll not, neither do they spin? The negroes of this section are becoming considerably mixed with Indian, Latin and even Anglo-Saxon blood, so that blue eyes, fair skins and even red wool is not uncommon among them. They lead a most happy-go-lucky existence, subsisting on the fruits that grow wild in wonderful profusion and such accommodating fish as will nibble a bit of bacon on a hook suspended from the branch of a tree, at whose other end lies a sleepy negro, flat on his back in the sun.

During the long slow days of voyaging up the Magdalena, passengers may possess their souls in patience as best they can, with nothing to do but fight mosquitoes and keep as cool as circumstances will permit. The male passengers vary the monotony somewhat by pistol and rifle practice, using the alligators, that in some

places literally line the banks, for targets. The alligator is by no means a frisky creature, as those who are acquainted with his habits may know, but is not to be trusted even in his hours of apparent oblivion. With their noses to the river, their small eyes closed and great jaws half open, they seem to be sound asleep, until the boat is close upon them, when in the twinkling of an eye the jaws shut with the snap of a mammoth rat trap, and they plunge into the water in slow pursuit. The boat is always followed by a school of them, probably in hope of a morsel, each seeming to say in their language of the nursery rhyme: "Fee, fie, fo, fum! I smell the blood of an Englishman, and dead or alive, I will have some!"

What a rare field is this for the alligator hunter! Considering the value of the skins and the enormous demand for them in the manufacture of shoes, satchels, etc., the wonder grows why some thrifty Yankee has not thought himself that fortunes lie in the exhaustless crop.

ON BOARD A MAGDALENA STEAMER.

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WHEN THE ALLIGATOR HUNTER IS OUT.

When the alligators are not to be found

in the rivers, they are to be found

in the swamps, and the alligator-hunters

are to be found in the swamps.

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## SIBERIA.

WHERE RUSSIA SENDS HER ROBBERS,  
MURDERERS AND NIHILISTS.

Enormous Extent of Territory—Natural  
Features—Exaggerations Con-  
cerning Its Prisons.

Although much has been printed on the subject, the Russian Empire is still comparatively unknown. The difficulties of language, the character of the Government, the peculiar habits of the people are all hindrances in the way of the traveler, and all tend to prevent any accurate knowledge of the inner life of the country. But, of all portions of this little-understood empire, no part is less known or more talked about than the vast territory comprised under the general name of Siberia. The name itself summons up a thousand stories of terror, a thousand tales of suffering. There is perhaps no word in existence which expresses to the average mind a greater amount of concentrated human misery than this name.

In geographical extent Siberia is the largest country under one government on the globe. From northeast to southwest, Siberia is 5,600 miles long. From north to south its extent is 2,170 miles, and it comprises, with Central Asia, the province lately conquered from Turkestan, about 6,000,000 square miles, a territory twice the size of the United States, or, including Mexico, as large as all North America.

A country which covers so much of the earth's surface must have a vast variety of climate; nor is it remarkable to find all kinds of soil, from the frozen ice of the Arctic shore to the torrid sands of Central Asia. That part of Siberia which borders on the Arctic seas is composed mostly of level plains, which are covered during three-fourths of the year with ice and snow. During the summer this portion becomes marshy; it is thawed out for only a few inches. During the winter the cold in Northern Siberia is intense. Mercury freezes, and remains frozen for four months in the year. Travellers have frequently noticed that spittle will freeze and strike the earth in a hard, icy ball. In traveling it becomes necessary frequently to halt and clear the nostrils of the horses from blood and ice, the intense cold causing them to bleed freely. The agent of the Russian-American Company at Yakkus had a well bared in his yard, and at a depth of 380 feet the ground was found to be frozen as hard as it was on the surface.

In Eastern Siberia, during the summer, the inhabitants dig a hole in the ground and place therein their provisions, as an ice chest. The bodies of the dead who have been buried from forty to sixty years are found to be hard frozen, and as perfectly preserved as on the day when they were interred. During the summer time on the Obi and other rivers of Northern Siberia, fish are caught and placed in ponds for preservation. When winter comes on they are taken out, exposed for a few hours to the air, then are frozen, transported 2,000 miles to St. Petersburg. Some distance is the cold of the interior and so dangerous, from floating ice is the navigation of the summer, as numerous are the obstacles (in the way of flooded rivers and marshy plains) in the way of the land traveler, that no complete survey of Northern Siberia has ever been made, and much of the coast line is merely conjectural.

Proceeding south after leaving the Arctic circle, subtropical vegetation and trees begin; in the north temperate zone, thick forests of birches and cedars are found, and the few inhabitants are able to cultivate oats, rye and the harder cereals; still further south, the river valleys have great fertility. The most of Siberia, however, is a vast plain stretching to the north, in some parts much resembling the prairie lands of Iowa, very rich; the western portion of the country being in reality the granary of Russia. The river valleys are everywhere fertile and there are plenty of them. Siberia is drained by four great rivers—the Obi, the Yenisei, the Lena and the Amoor. The Obi is the greatest river of western Siberia, having a course of 2,900 miles, navigable through three-fourths of its distance. It and its tributaries traverse all the western provinces, and extend into Chinese Tartaria. The Yenisei is nearly 4,000 miles in length, rising in the mountains of Mongolia, and comprising in its valley nearly 1,000,000 square miles of territory. The Lena is of eastern Siberia what the Obi is of western, the great artery of commerce for both Chinese and Russian goods, and is probably the most valuable for commercial purposes of them all.

Notwithstanding its ample supply of rivers, however, Siberia is practically excluded from the rest of the world, save through Russia, travel in the summer being impeded by flooded rivers, alternating with sandy plains, and in winter by the fact that high winds blow the snow off the plains, at the same time creating enormous drifts in the ravines and hollows, thus horses are frequently forced to draw the sledges over bare ground for miles at a time. But the means of communication, even with these disadvantages, are greater than might be supposed. There are few railroads, but steamships traverse all the rivers and highways have been constructed in every province and through the heart of Siberia. The border of Russia to the Chinese Wall there runs the high road to China, a vast artery of commerce, with post stations at short intervals, telegraph wires, and a constant stream of travelers and merchandise passing to and fro.

Allusion has been made to the few inhabitants of Siberia, and the expression is used advisedly, there being only about 5,000,000, less than one to every square mile. The people of Siberia may be classified roughly as aborigines, such as the Kirghiz and Kalmyks; voluntary colonists, who for personal or political reasons have been advised by the Government to go to Siberia, and convicts. The last are the most numerous, but are not graded nor treated alike. Murderers, Nihilists and political prisoners are put to hard labor in the mines. Other classes are assigned compulsory employment, though perhaps not so arduous, while others again, though kept under the surveillance of the police, are allowed to do what they choose in the mineral wealth of Siberia, furnished employment to a large class of the Government slaves. The mines are very extensive and exceedingly diverse, three districts being worthy of notice; the first east of the Ural mountains, where gold, silver, copper and lead are found; the second on the north slope of the Altai mountains, and near the southern boundary of the country; the third, the Irkutch District, in Western Siberia.

But these do not comprise all the mines of the country, for on the Ural plateau platinum and precious stones are found, while in the volcanic region of the Pacific Coast, a district comprising over twenty active volcanoes, are found arsenic, antimony, plumbago, together with emeralds, the topaz and amethyst. The crown has a substantial hold on all the valuable mines, and receives all the wealth the yield that is not stolen, for the Russian Civil Service has the reputation of being the most thievish in the globe, and the members cannot be trusted, except with all the safe-guards that virtue and caution can throw around them; so a large share of the gains of the mines goes into various pockets on its way to the Imperial Treasury. Nevertheless, at Vladivostock, over 100,000 tons of coal are mined per annum, and while there are no means of knowing what is

the total revenue from the mines, it must, in spite of the peculations already mentioned, be very large.

But Siberia is known and is interesting neither as an agricultural nor a mining country, for the term has become synonymous with every species of cruelty. Innumerable narratives have been published from time to time, giving accounts of what purported to be the sufferings of prisoners in the Siberian mines, of harrowing adventures undergone by escaping convicts. There was, no doubt, a time when these stories contained an element of truth. Fifty to a hundred years ago, no doubt, the Siberian prisons were in places so dreadful that words would fail in their effort to give an adequate account of the horrors. But there is some reason to believe that in the last twenty-five or thirty years there has been an immense improvement in the condition of the Siberian prisoners. The system was begun by Peter the Great, who, as his predecessor, Ivan II., had conquered the western portion of the country, determined to make use of it as a penal settlement for the Swedish prisoners he had taken in the war with Charles XII. Between 9,000 and 12,000 of these unfortunate were deported to Siberia, and allowed to stay there as colonists, being obliged to remain in the country under no greater restraint than was necessary to prevent their escape. Indeed, many of them were allowed to send for their families, and the Russian Government defrayed the expense of bringing their wives and children from Sweden and locating them in Siberia. Of these prisoners over 800 were sent to Tobolsk, the capital of Western Siberia, and among them were gold and silversmiths, joiners, carpenters, shoemakers, blacksmiths and other handicraftsmen, who, being supplied with materials and tools, were supported by the Government, soon became prosperous in their new location. Finding that the system worked well, according to the Russian idea, Peter the Great followed it out by sending all classes of convicts—murderers from the army, murderers, robbers and evil-doers generally. All were, however, not allowed to stay among the honest Swedes who had preceded them, but were sent further on. The same system has practically been kept up to the present day, for the more depraved of the prisoners are segregated and kept from association with the compulsory colonists, although by good conduct, a prisoner who has been sent out for life may in time escape from the hard labor of the mines and become a peasant farmer. The interesting narrative of Baron Rosen, himself a political prisoner of the time of Nicholas I., gives a picture of the life of the convicts in Siberia. The food is poor, the clothing is scanty, the work is hard, the punishment is severe, the pay is small, and the health is bad. The agent of the Russian-American Company at Yakkus had a well bared in his yard, and at a depth of 380 feet the ground was found to be frozen as hard as it was on the surface.

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## DAILY RECORD-UNION

SATURDAY.....FEBRUARY 22, 1890.

ISSUED BY THE  
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California—Local rains in the northern portion;  
fair weather in the southern portion; southerly winds; slightly warmer.  
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seventy-ninth volume, and a new journalistic  
era of usefulness. It makes no  
boast of the past, no extravagant promises  
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career shall speak for it, and that its work  
in the world shall be submitted to the test  
of reason. The RECORD-UNION seldom indulges in remarks concerning itself, being  
content that it shall be judged by men  
without parade of its virtues; but the entry  
upon a new newspaper year does renew  
the conviction of the high character of the  
journalistic office, and intensifies the sense  
of responsibility that attaches to the  
conduct of an exponent of public opinion.

## THE DAY.

There have been, there are now, and  
probably there will continue to be timid  
souls, sincerely devoted to free government,  
who look upon the scheme of the  
republic with fear that it will fail. Others  
are tinctured with that degree of pessimism  
that impresses them with the belief  
that republican institutions have already  
entered the era of decadence. In the  
vileness of officials, the corruption of politicians,  
the influx of foreign elements not  
inspired with love for the system of the  
republic, and in the apparent indifference  
with which the anniversary of the birth of  
Washington is observed, they discover evidences  
of the decline of the patriotic spirit.But it is not essential that a people  
should be constantly enthusiastic concerning  
their political and social blessings in  
order to keep the patriotic fires burning.  
The national heart at its normal beat may  
be as true as in the hour of trial. Mere  
processional pageantry and pyrotechnic  
spectacle do not testify to sincere devotion  
to the patriotic principle, nor their absence  
to a decay of love for country. These appear-  
ances as much to ignoble as to lofty sentiments;  
they are cheap devices that are  
employed for the most ordinary of occasions.There is to the impartial student of  
American character no evidence that  
the regard for the heroism and self-sacrifice  
of George Washington and the band of  
patriots who upheld his arms has grown  
weak, or that his memory has faded in the  
American heart. On the contrary, as the  
era of that lofty character recedes, its sym-  
metry is more disclosed, and its exquisite  
proportions become clearer to the vision.  
As the ages pass, his name will be cher-  
ished with even more loving regard, and  
the events in which he was a chief actor  
will be more deeply graven upon the tab-  
lets of history.It will be the fate of his name and  
character to stand forward among men for  
all time as a type of the loftiest effort  
made by man to attain the utmost limits  
of the possibilities of liberty, tempered  
by that wise restraint which is born of the  
voluntary surrender of rights by the gov-  
erned, to the end that greater security and  
broader privileges and more gracious im-  
munities may be enjoyed by all.The tide of foreign ideas, the encroachment  
of the anti-republican sentiment, the  
waves of socialistic ideas and the  
assaults of anarchical foes, have in no wise  
so advanced us as to cause anxiety to  
the national heart. Since national gov-  
ernment is a fallible institution, and like  
all the works of man, imperfect, it is possi-  
ble that for the time to come when the  
nations of the Old World, in the smoke of  
our downfall, will witness the failure of  
self-government. But the hour will never  
strike, when the estimate of the character  
of Washington, as the representative of a  
lofty idea, will decline.Should in a future century the Ameri-  
can people fall apart and the fabric of the  
Republic be broken up from the founda-  
tions, the calamity will serve to lift Wash-  
ington to the level of prophets—since no  
such deplorable occurrence can come  
about except through disregard of his in-  
spired warnings. "Towards the preserva-  
tion of your government and the perman-  
ency of your present happy state," said  
the devoted patriot to the people of the  
new-born Empire, "it is requisite, not  
only that you steadily disown your  
regular opposition to its acknowledged  
authority, but also that you rest with care  
the spirit of innovation upon its prin-  
ciples, however specious the pretenses."\* \* \* There being constant danger  
of excess [of party spirit] the effort ought  
to be, by force of public opinion, to miti-  
gate and assuage it."If these sagacious counsels are observed  
and his example of self-sacrifice kept in  
view, the American national heart will  
never cease to beat in time to the pro-  
gressive march of the best government  
of man's creation.A. MORMON CHURCH EXONENT RE-  
FLIES.The Deseret News is the mouth-piece, in  
a journalistic sense, of the Church of Jesus  
Christ of Latter Day Saints. It has for  
years been recognized as an able advocate  
of that organization, and as the unwavering  
and valiant defender of the Mormon faith.  
We do not recall that it has ever been  
charged with cowardice, or indulgence in  
mere vituperation in lieu of argument.  
We have recognized it for many years as  
a stalwart champion of its Church, and  
have frequently had occasion to deplore  
the misdirection of the ability behind it.  
In a recent issue this organ of the Mormon  
Church takes the RECORD-UNION severly  
to task for its comments upon the recent  
election in Salt Lake City. Opening with  
some exceedingly complimentary remarks  
concerning the intelligence of this journal,  
and its fairness and information con-  
cerning Utah, and its representative char-  
acter among papers of the day, the News  
quotes us as saying that the triumph of the  
"Gentiles" is a victory for free institu-  
tions, "and is a suggestion to the churches,  
no matter what their creed or position,  
that the American will not tolerate any  
interference by ecclesiastical authorities  
with the government of his State. The  
election inaugurated a new era for Utah.  
It presages there the decline of the power  
of the Church in civic administration."To this the News replies that the victory,  
as viewed on the ground, was in fact but  
the result of arrogant assumption of tyrannical  
authority; that appeal from the decisions  
of the Registrars was refused, and that those  
officials disregarded the decrees of the Supreme  
Court of the United States, and thus deprived  
"Mormons" of the right to vote. If this is true, we reply that the  
Mormons have their remedy in the Courts  
of the nation where they can rest assured  
all their legal rights will be upheld, and  
any injustice done them will be righted.The News denies with emphasis that the  
contests between the Mormon and the non-  
Mormon elements in Utah is a contest in  
behalf of religious liberty by the latter.  
We have these many years held it to be  
just that, since it has been a struggle on  
the part of the Gentile to divorce civil  
government in the Territory from the  
church that so long dominated the political  
institutions of the State. It may be  
true that the majority of the Liberals are  
not religionists, are attached to no church,  
but none the less the result of their con-  
test with Mormonism operates in the  
direction of emancipation from a species of  
political slavery by ecclesiastical authorities  
of the mass of the Mormon people of Utah.We are perfectly well aware that there  
is now and long has been a good deal of  
misinformation concerning the Mormon  
people; that in some degree the church  
has been misrepresented; that it is purely  
civil ordering of things has been in the  
interest of sobriety, quiet industry and the  
suppression of a few evils. But when  
all this is said it remains that there has  
not been in Utah among the Mormons  
political freedom, because the church has  
utterly dominated the faithful and has or-  
dered not only its social conduct, but its  
political creed, and that practically the latter  
has had but one article of faith ex-  
pressed in it—animosity to all parties,  
men and classes that in any way proposes  
interference with the order of things  
established by the church, polygamy in-  
cluded.

## EMPLOYING THE UNEMPLOYED.

There has been made on the Supervisors  
of San Francisco a demand that they shall  
enter upon the prosecution of some sort of  
public work, in order to relieve the dis-  
tresses alleged to be felt by a large num-  
ber of men out of employment in that city.  
The committee assuming to speak for the  
unemployed, to the number of 25,000, con-  
sists of five persons. Just what commis-  
sion they have to represent the people  
they say they speak for is not clear. A  
meeting was held ten days ago, to which  
the unemployed were invited to come.  
There attended about six hundred, and  
the committee was named. If we assume  
that three times that number are out of  
employment in a city of over three hun-  
dred thousand population, it is not at all a  
surprising revelation. Unquestionably  
these are a little hard, and there is  
stringency in the money market, but there  
is not more severity than was to have been  
expected from such a phenomenal stress of  
stormy weather, that put a stop to most  
outdoor employment.There is as much money in the country  
as ever, but it is a strange fact that when  
the cry of a pinch is raised, the very people  
who have money proceed to hoard it. The  
truth is, that the best time of all others  
to expend money in productive indus-  
try, is the time when labor most de-  
mands employment and when there is  
most need for the circulation of the  
medium of exchange. But human nature  
is as it is, and not as we would have it.  
The appeal to the Supervisors of the  
metropolis to expedite money in the treasury  
simply for the purpose of giving employ-  
ment, is indefensible, dangerous, and if  
carried out to its legitimate end, would  
wreck any community. Human sympathy  
must go out to any man willing to work,  
need employment and unable to obtain  
it. All such have claims upon their fel-  
lows that cannot be ignored. But the dis-  
position to turn to the Government for  
relief in such cases is one that ought to be  
discouraged. Taxation is not levied for  
the purpose of meeting such demands, and  
unless there is public work needed pro-  
tection and that should be done now, to  
enter upon the disbursement of public funds  
for the purpose of giving employ-  
ment, is malfeasance. If, as the com-  
mittee referred to asserts, there are 25,000  
unemployed men in San Francisco in need,  
who ought to be given work by the Super-  
visors, and it is assumed that such labor  
should earn \$1.50 a day, in twenty days  
three-quarters of a million dollars would  
be taken from the treasury of San Fran-  
cisco, and it may well be doubted if for  
money so hastily spent the city would re-  
ceive due return.The RECORD-UNION is the friend of  
honest labor, it has never at any time  
failed to stand for human rights, and to  
advocate the best interests of men who  
earn their living by labor in any honest  
form, nor will it ever fail to maintain the  
cause of honest industry; but it can well  
not believe that the efforts of the Liberals  
in Utah have been directed to the task  
of destroying a religious organization. If  
the people of the nation believed that the  
campaigns of the Liberals in Utah were  
promoted for the destruction of the Mor-  
mon Church as such, for warfare upon  
the right of men to worship as the  
conscience approves, or to speak and write  
freely, to assemble orderly, to engage in  
whatever devotions they choose within the  
laws of decency and civilization, and the  
recognized and generally accepted codes of  
social life concerning the marriage relation,  
they would withdraw their sympathy  
and promptly denounce the Liberal move-  
ment. If, in short, they believed that the  
Liberal triumph meant the narrowing of  
tolerance, any circumscribing of religious  
privilege, any shearing of human right,  
they would crush the Liberals with the  
weight of their indignation.The News excepts to the statements of  
the RECORD-UNION that there was an  
attempted fraud on the part of the Mormon  
party in the election, and asserts that the  
Liberals were open in their contempt for  
law, and brazen in their perpetration of  
frauds. We did not assert: we stated what  
others said, who were on the ground and  
to be, by force of public opinion, to miti-  
gate and assuage it."I am to know. But that is a matter of  
small consequence, since if the Mormons  
were defrauded, they have their remedy in  
the Courts, and if they have any evidence  
of outrages in the conduct of the election,  
they can bring the offenders to punishment.  
Practically the News forswore such  
fraud, for it adds one instance of alleged  
fraud, that it is notorious that a special  
train was run by the Gentiles to the Col-  
orado line, registering hundreds of men as  
voters who never lived in Salt Lake City,  
and that the Gentle leaders have made no  
open denial of such charges of fraud pre-  
ferred by the Mormons against them.  
These matters can well be left to the  
investigation of the Courts.The News denies with emphasis that the  
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## A MUMMY'S BEQUEST.

Among varied attempts to improve my condition in life, I look back to my struggles among the alluvial gravels of the Vaal river with perhaps greater satisfaction than the actual results would warrant, for I met with but meager success. Men there were who did now and again find a diamond that repaid them for their outlay and hard work, but instances were rare. I regret to say I was not one of them, although for years I wrought as a digger, barely paying my way, full of hope and sanguine that sooner or later I should sink out a stone that would repay me all and send me on my homeward way rejoicing.

After about four years of diamond-digging I began to feel somewhat lonely in my domestic life. Quite unexpectedly opportunity served me for bettering my condition in that respect.

I fell in love. Stupid people have asked, "Who on earth could you find out there to fall in love with?"

My reply has invariably been: "If you could have seen Norah Kildare your contempt would have been as keen as mine for such questions."

People home here, in England, never seem to understand that circumstances provide compensation for all drawbacks connected with them, if we only wait their time. Circumstances had brought Colonel Kildare to the banks of the Vaal river in search of that which he could recoup himself for losses incurred by injudicious speculation at home. It was not a one case; there were other families some of them, who had lost all, too, in all respects—other in some, but not in all.

At the time I met Norah first of all she was but 18 or 19 years of age—a splendid specimen of girlhood, tall, of a proud bearing, though not by any means haughty—a royal type of blonde; such a wealth of hair, and eyes "too softly blue" viewing with the heaven's cerulean tint. A capital horsewoman, fearless and therefore graceful. Riding the wildest of horses, she would sometimes start off on a mad burst across the veldt, and ride for miles, returning some hours later with the horse blown but tamed, guided and controlled with nothing but a thin switch in her hand.

The reader may smile incredulously. Does he think I exaggerate? Not a bit. I can assure him, if Norah hadn't been a bit different to the rest of her sex, she couldn't have stood the life we led after we were married, for as we were to encounter, there were some jolts, call me legitimate means of accumulating money.

Colonel Kildare, or, as he was locally known, "The Colonel," and myself entered into a trading partnership. He was to remain behind and look after the digging interests, while I adventured upon a trading trip to the Zambesi. Norah, against whose wishes there was no one to demand, decided that our marriage should take place before my departure, in order that, should I see fit, I may accompany my husband." The Colonel" broke up his establishment and went to live at the hotel the very morning I started with the wagons—I had two, laden with all kinds of Kaffir truck, which included beds, wines, fancy-colored blankets and mirrors, with which to trade, in return for skins, ivory and feathers.

Norah had been a general favorite all along the river. The diggers divided into competing parties, and those who were with the prospects held out by the returns from the different claims. Not one of the camps but Norah had visited on her sturdy gray mare, generally for the purpose of enacting the "ministering angel's" role.

Norah on this, to us, eventful morning held quite a levee at the wagons; and many were the souvenirs handed her by men who had rallied, under her ministrations, from the trying fever or the bed where accident had laid them prone and helpless, and who, in all human probability, would be separated by unknown distances from the chance of seeing her again long ere the time for our return from the interior.

After a variety of adventures by flood and field, we arrived at KwaZulu, native kraals, and farther fifty miles south of the river Zambesi. At this place we remained some two months, making a remarkably successful run of trade with the hunters of the Mosekizik tribe, who had been very lucky and brought in large quantities of skins and ivory, together with a good supply of ostrich feathers.

Being so near to the Victoria Falls I thought it would be a thousand pities to return southward without first taking a look at so famous and picturesque a spot; so I unspanned the oxen one fine morning and started for the falls.

No words of mine can help to extol the beauty of a spectacle which has been so frequently described by others whose pens have done such graphic justice in the portrayal of this wondrous water picture.

We remained for over a week at this pleasant place, making daily a picnic of our visit, thoroughly exploring the vicinity. We were lucky in arriving at a time when game was fairly abundant. As a rule, travelers to this far-off region complain of the scarcity of animal life.

In the neighborhood of "the falls" there are to be found many interesting objects; but what pleased Norah and myself most were the grandly precipitous rocks and deep ravines through which the Zambesi courses its way eastward. These rocks and ravines are not easily traversed, but with discretion and pluck combined we found our way famously. Numberless caves penetrate the sides of these deep ravines, in some of which we found curios sufficient to stock half of the curiosity shops in London.

One day, having fatigued ourselves by clambering over rocks and exploring a cave, in which we had discovered some deserving meat, we sat ourselves down at its entrance while the Griqua boy who had accompanied us made preparations for making tea as an accompaniment to a piece of boiled bullhead meat and bread.

While the Griqua was thus busy we amused ourselves by all kinds of surmises as to the past and future of the river. From these surmises we were after a while aroused by Jan placing our frugal repast before us. Having done this, he withdrew, and started, as he advised us, for the purpose of investigating the interior of the cave and seeing for himself what there was to see, taking with him as a precautionary measure a flaming brand from the fire. Norah and myself set to work at once to satisfy our inner wants, succeeding fairly well. I had just got my pipe under way when all at once a loud shriek, coming from the interior of the cave, reached our ears, and an instant after the Griqua boy was running toward us, an expression of alarm mingled with one of puzzlement on his face.

"Boo!" he shouted, "there's a man in there—a queer kind of man, too. He sits and sits, looking mighty straight. I think Eas, he must be dead!"

"Nonsense, Jan," I replied, "you are scared by your fancies. There are no Kaffirs living hereabout—certainly no white men—or we should have heard or seen something of them. Come, let us see what it is that has frightened you."

Jan, like most natives, indulged in a certain amount of superstition, and it was not without show of some reluctance that he turned to accompany Norah and myself to the object he so firmly declared must be a man, alive or dead.

He led us into a dark passage, which had escaped observation when Norah and myself first entered. As we progressed I saw what appeared to be signs indicative of the presence of man at some time or other—signs slight in themselves, but sufficient to satisfy me that Jan, after all,

might not have been entirely wrong. Rude attempts at carving figures without any recognition of clay to form, either human or otherwise, but such as must have been made by the hand of man, having as his means some sharp instrument, for the rock of which the sides of the cave were formed was hard and of a basaltic character.

Presently the walls seemed to narrow, and, after proceeding into a large chamber, wherein faint streaks of daylight streamed. Here, however, Jan's nerves began to fail him, and he steadfastly refused to proceed any further. Pushing him to one side, I entered, followed closely by my wife. The doubtful gloom of the place prevented me at first from distinguishing objects that lay strewed about. Turning to Norah, I said:

"I don't see much here to scare the stupid fellow. Truly there is an uncanny look about the place, but one can account for that by the amount of magnified up by Jan's assertion, to the nothing of the real world of fear his face was wearing when he came running back to us."

As I finished this remark my wife touched me on my arm and said: "Look over there! What can it be?" "Oh, Geof, it is a man!"

Turning my eyes in the direction Norah was pointing, I saw what I at once knew to be the figure of a man, but whether of God's creation or the fanciful work of nature I could not say. The queer sensation of an icy finger tracing out the line of my spinal vertebrae began to affect me—not that I was in the least alarmed. I have never been the faintest bit nervous; I knew that if the figure were a thing of a hundred, it is as good as another. Besides, had I not Norah with me? She was a host in herself. I never for a moment quailed on Jan; he, though brave, Trod in the open air and the sun, but his fellow, who so strong a believer in the supernatural as to be of any assistance when it appeared to him, a question of battling with the devil.

On going up to the object which had provoked so much alarm I found it to be the body of a native in a sitting posture. The seat upon which it rested ridely resembled a chair—such a one as is usually described as a hall porter's—and had apparently been roughly hewn from a fragment of neighboring stone.

The body seemed at first to give evidence of a sudden death, but on closer examination I recognized that there was method in its disposition, and, judging by the fact that several articles were placed methodically in a half-circle in front of the body, I came to the conclusion that a native burial of more than ordinary character had been here carried out, but, how long since remains to this day a mystery.

The body, I found on close inspection under the light of sundry matches, was in an extremely mummified condition. Indeed, I have never seen anything of a similar order so well preserved. The most curious fact was that there appeared to be nothing on or about the body to show that any process had been used to bring out such perfect preservation, unless, as I afterwards thought, smoke had acted as a preservative.

I was led to fancy this from the large quantity of wood ashes with which the floor of the cavern was strewn, and the dark, grimy appearance of the roof, as seen by the dim light of the matches I burned. The atmosphere of the cave was very dry; no moisture could be detected on the walls, this condition of surroundings going a long way in helping the smoke to penetrate.

To comfort her as best I might was all I could do. Not a word could I get from her. After waiting some time she recovered a little, seeming to see the necessity of some explanation.

Pointing with her finger she directed my glance to the mummy, and lo! I saw that it was headless. Again I followed the direction in which she pointed.

No wonder the poor girl had been frightened. Her two experiments that night might well have scared a braver heart. The head had broken off and rolled right up to where she lay. I picked up the head and placed it back on the one side, then slipped into the blanket again, and slept till coffee time. We were glad enough when morning broke, and it was only after a cup of hot coffee that we felt equal to venturing upon the events of the previous night.

On examining the head I found that the tendons which had held it to the trunk had been eaten sunder, one by one and the dried skin of the neck had broken under the weight. The vertebrae having lost its grisly part had separated without difficulty and let the skull go rolling down on the sleeping Norah, whose brain, already full of fevered fevers, conjured up some much worse catastrophe.

And now comes the queerest bit of the whole business. We had made a tolerable brazier, and were preparing for insuring when Norah, who was already in the wagon, said:

"I'm over my fright now, Geof. What do you think I'm going to do?" "I'll give it up, my dear," I replied, "you women folk are too many for me."

"Geoff, I am going to try and fix Inkose's head on again!"

She had no sooner said the words, when just such another shriek as she had given in the night came from her lips, followed immediately by a ringing, merry laugh and the body, when tapped, gave out a sound as does stretched parchment.

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"Geoff, I am going to try and fix Inkose's head on again!"

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## CALIFORNIA AND COAST.

No Signs of Abatement of the Relentless Storm.

## IS IT EVER GOING TO STOP?

Deplorable Condition of the Shasta Division of the Southern Pacific Company--Etc.

(SPECIAL DISPATCHES TO THE RECORD-UNION.)

EXASPERATING.

The Storm, After a Brief Lull, Breaks Once Again.

Clouds Vortex. February 21st.—At 11 o'clock this morning the snow-storm again set in, after eighteen hours' intermission. It is snowing thick and fast at this writing, with indications of continuing throughout the day. The mines remain idle, the North Star having much water in the shaft to contend with, necessitating the use of wood to heat the storm and starting up the auxiliary steam pumps. The blockade of the ditch furnishing water for power may be raised in a few days, if the weather permits. The narrow-gauge railroad is still blockaded, but may get through to-day. No mail has been received since Tuesday. Snow is expected this evening, via Monterey. The streets are lined with snow-banks so deep that people on one side are completely hidden from the view of those on the other.

NEVADA CITY, February 21st.—It has been snowing most of the day with rather a high temperature. Fifty-six inches have fallen at this city since the storm began on Sunday morning, but it is set to go on till it reaches three feet on the level now. Express arrived by the Marysville stage tonight, but no mails since Tuesday night. The narrow gauge snow-plow, leaving here on Wednesday morning, reached Colfax this evening, and is now trying to return. So much snow has fallen since it went down, the stage is as bad this winter. The main line of the Virginia and Truckee Railroad has been kept clear.

VIRGINIA CITY (Nev.), February 21st.—It began to snow here on Saturday evening, and the fall was continued until this morning, a depth of fully four feet accumulating during the storm. The barometer now is as low as ever since this winter. The main line of the Virginia and Truckee Railroad has been kept clear.

BAKERSFIELD, February 21st.—Three showers came down to-day, each of slight duration. One was accompanied by a lively hail-storm. The clouds are still heavy. The rain fell in circles, one area getting a good wetting, while next to it the country was dusty.

SANTA ROSA, February 23rd.—The storm which commenced last Saturday bids fair to continue, as the barometer is low and the wind blowing fresh from the south with rain falling at intervals.

PORTLAND, February 21st.—Rain continues to fall, and snow falls to-day. The weather is very cold. The surrounding foothills are white with snow. The total rain-fall for the season is 40.83 inches. To-night it is clear, but the weather is not settled.

MERCED, February 21st.—Last evening a heavy fall of rain visited our town, and again to-night at 5 o'clock we had another heavy shower of rain and hail.

PORTLAND, February 21st.—Rain, sunshower and hail have alternated to-day. The appearances at sundown are that more storm is to come. Business and farming are sadly demoralized.

NAPA, February 21st.—Rain continues to fall in showers. The river is falling.

SAN DIEGO, February 21st.—The day has been showery. The barometer is going up rapidly and the wind has veered to the northward. The indications are that the storm will end with to-night.

## ON THE SHASTA DIVISION.

Storming Again—The Blockade Worse Than Anticipated.

ASHLAND (Or.), February 21st.—Reports from the wrecking forces in Cow Creek canyon indicate that the damage to the railroad is much greater than at first anticipated. At last reports Prat's men had not yet reached the big slide, the road north of Glendale having to be almost entirely rebuilt.

It is now generally understood that the railroad people have abandoned all hopes of clearing out the big West Fork slide, but will build three miles of entirely new road around the head of the slide of the creek. Beyond the big slide many miles of track will have to be almost entirely rebuilt also.

The latest report from the railroad officials who have been over the ground say that through trains cannot possibly run between Portland and San Francisco within six weeks. Manager Koehler is down at Cow Creek. The local trains have been running a number of days between Ashland and Glendale, but have not carried the mail regularly.

STORMING AGAIN.

DUNSMURE, February 21st.—Another furious snow commenced this evening. Much of the snow rolls back on the track as soon as the plows throw it again; the banks on the sides of the roads, thus delaying work on the subject.

SISSON, February 21st.—The track is again obstructed. It is still snowing.

YREKA, February 21st.—Six inches more of snow fell last night. Another mail arrived at midnight, the second since January 10th.

## A DESPERATE PAIR.

A Man and a Woman Fine With Fatal Effect Upon a Horse.

ALBUQUERQUE (N. M.), February 21st.—On Thursday, while on his way from Los Corriles to Cowbanks, three miles distant, with \$900 with which to pay the miners, John Elder was held up and robbed by Lee White, who then fled toward San Pedro mining camp.

He turned to kill any one attempting to arrest him. He afterwards stole a horse and went to the house of his mistress, a Mexican woman, and compelled her to cut her hair, don male attire and mount an extra horse.

Later they were pursued and overtaken by Deputy Sheriff Myers and pose.

When the woman opened fire, killing one of the posse and fatally wounding Deputy Sheriff Myers.

During a lull in the firing White and the woman escaped, and are still at large.

Intense excitement prevails. They certainly will be lynched if captured.

Raymond's Insanity.

VISALIA, February 21st.—In the case of the People against C. J. Raymond, two jury trials were completed and two or three more. Raymond was charged with embezzling \$105, the proceeds of three mowing machines. W. C. Rarig, a San Francisco merchant, was the complaining witness. Senator Goucher of Fresno was the attorney for the defendant. He brought in a plea of insanity. Raymond was notorious here for shirking the payment of debts. Visalians are inclined to call his insanity realistic.

## California Horses Going East.

LOS ANGELES, February 21st.—Ten carloads of California horses leave this city to-morrow night for New York. The cars are all padded and fitted up for the purpose. Each car will contain sixteen horses. Seven cars will carry the entire Rose-Meady stud, which will be sold at auction in New York, March 6th and 6th. The other three carloads consist of animals from Pleasanton and Valencia. Among the Rose-Meady studs is Young Alcazar, Thor, Mista, Reverie and Voo-doo. It is expected that these five will bring near \$7,000.

They'll All Be Dudes.

SAN FRANCISCO, February 21st.—The steamer China arrived from China and Japan this evening. A report from Japan says that Sumitomo Kikichemon, the wealthiest merchant of Osaka, and proprietor of the Wakato copper mine, is about to celebrate the two hundredth anniversary

of the mine coming into the possession of his family. One of the features will be the presentation to each of the 300 men employed a swallow-tail coat.

Sued for Libel.

SAN DIEGO, February 21st.—Walter G. Smith, editor of the *Evening Sun*, was arrested this evening on a charge of criminal libel preferred by George W. Monteith, a lawyer of this city. An attack was made on Monteith in the columns of the *Sun*, praying damages of \$10,000 for defamation of character, hoping to compel him to withdraw from the case.

Death of a Prominent Sonoma Citizen.

SONOMA, February 21st.—Chas. P. Douglas, who has resided in the Sonoma Valley continuously for thirty years, died at his home, near this place, and in conversation with a Riconian reporter yesterday stated that he had a very pleasant time. During his absence of five months he had seen a great deal of the country. Mr. Petrie left this city last fall, accompanied by his daughter, Lottie, and went direct to New York. After spending a short time in the great metropolis, they left for Washington, D. C., arriving there in time to witness and participate in the festivities attendant upon the Grand Conclave of Knights Templar in the Capital. Mr. Petrie says the affair was decidedly grand, and the beautiful streets of the National Capital were bright by uniformed Knights.

Leaving Washington, they again returned to New York State, and spent nearly three months traveling in the central portion of the state, returning to the Empire State. The beautiful cities of Syracuse, Rochester and Brooklyn were visited, and afterward the party left for Chicago, arriving there on New Year's day. Two weeks passed before the sights of the great metropolis of the West had been thoroughly explored.

"Don't I know it! Now here I am, awfully hungry. Have you a wood-pile where I can saw enough wood to earn my breakfast?"

"Yes, but you take this quarter and first get a meal; and if you want to come back and saw some wood, you can do that." "Well, I'll come back after I get something to eat," replied the tramp.

The doctor thought he had seen the last of the poor fellow, but the latter came back, as he promised, and put in a good two hours.

Such has been the experience of scores of men who put in weeks of hard labor, by day and night, shoveling snow on the mountains.

## FATAL ACCIDENT.

Henry Maxon of this City Meets a Shocking Death on the Mountains.

An unfortunate and fatal accident befell one of the snow-shoers on the Central Pacific road last night. His name was Henry Maxon, and he resided with his brother at 707 Seventh street, in this city.

He was at Gold Run, and when a train, bound eastward, was passing when he attempted to board it while it was under way. He missed his footing, but clung to the car railing, and was dragged about three-fourths of a mile, unknown to any person on the train.

"The people up there," said Mr. Petrie, "are workers, and are pushing ahead and populating their towns at a rapid rate. Already immigration has commenced to the extent of from the East, and the night I came over there were five camps occupied and more formed every day."

Seattle is rapidly building up, and although the recent fire destroyed the better part of the city, still business is going on at a lively rate, and many firms doing large trade are housed under canvas. Both Seattle and Tacoma are thorough-going towns, and just as the civilization in the former is, there being no hotel, a syndicate of men was formed, and in six days a hotel was built, containing 400 rooms. People would come to the town, could find no place to lodge, and as a consequence would turn away. The public-spirited citizens couldn't stand this, and soon had money subscribed and a fine hotel damage was done.

"When I reached Portland a portion of the city's streets were under water, and hardly a log was left in any of the mills along the river. One man alone lost 5,000,000 logs by their being swept out into the ocean by the rushing torrents, and when I boarded the steamer Columbia for Astoria, I found the Columbia River, a day or two earlier, had been filled with drift-wood floating in the stream. When we finally reached the mouth of the river and looked upon the broad ocean, a peculiar and strange sight met our gaze. For miles and miles the sea was covered with drift-wood, ranging from small logs to large trees, running through seven-five miles of this before she came into open water. For two whole days the ship was plowing her way through the drift-wood. One afternoon all hands were looking ahead, thinking they saw a ship in the distance, but when the pilot approached, turned out to be an immense tree standing upright in the ocean. The roots of the tree must have been of such shape as to form a sort of rudder, which held the top of the tree out of water."

Although Mr. Petrie enjoyed himself on his trip immensely, he was glad to get home again. He left his daughter at Richfield Springs, New York.

While on a fraternal visit at Chico on Thursday evening, Frank D. Ryan, Grand President of the Native Sons, was banqueted by the local Fraternal Aid.

Arrivals at the Golden Eagle Hotel yesterday: Wm. M. Piper, Chas. F. Eule, R. B. Jennings, C. J. Cleary, T. C. Cleary, Frank C. Clark, Forest Hill, Walter G. Davis, Portland, Me.; W. B. Lardner, Auburn; J. W. Zale, Richmond, Va.; H. C. Case, T. C. Case, New York; H. F. Jones, San Fran.; T. C. Case, Batavia, N. Y.; G. C. McMullen to T. W. Sheehan—As per agreement in the case entitled C. C. Clark vs. G. C. McMullen and T. W. Sheehan, McMullen undivided half of Swamp Land Survey No. 320, and an undivided half of a part of Swamp Land Survey, No. 362.

## SOCIAL AND PERSONAL.

Thomas Stephens, of Placerville, is in the city visiting.

Miss Alice Nixon is visiting friends in San Francisco.

William M. Petrie of this city, has returned from his trip to the East in the city.

Charles H. Keeshin, Advance Manager of Frederick Warde, is in the city.

Mrs. J. Gebert, who has been seriously ill for the past five weeks, is slowly convalescing.

W. R. Ryer and V. N. Hart have gone to San Francisco to participate in the lawn tennis tournament to come off there to-day.

## RIVER IMPROVEMENTS.

Our Congressmen Pulling Together for Government Aid.

The following letter from Congressman Maxon was yesterday received by Dr. G. M.淳, Chairman of the Executive Committee of the River Improvement Convention: Sir:—Your resolution, also your resolution, also your resolution adopted by the Convention in connection with Senator Hearst, I drafted a bill providing for the appointment of a committee to consider the same in accordance with the resolutions of the Convention. Congressman McKenna, who is also deeply interested in this subject, has agreed to introduce it at present, as there was a committee with maps, etc., on the way here. It is needless for me to add that I am heartily in favor of your bill.

Arrivals at the Capital Hotel yesterday: Geo. Smith, Courtland; Wm. C. Wallace, Auburn; J. Stephenson, Franklin; T. H. Huggins, Clarkburg; T. O. Smith, a Friend of Mine, Rocklin; Chas. D. Jones and wife, and C. R. Stephens, T. R. Stephens and wife, Placerville; E. O. Farrel, Woodland; Robert Jones, Tomato.

## Dressed Beef in France.

I wonder if the raisers of the United States know what an immense business has grown up in the dressed meat shipped from the Argentine Republic to France?" said E. G. Servins, of Paris, to a reporter in Chicago. "This trade commenced in the summer of 1886, and has grown to immense proportions. The business is conducted much as your dressed meat is in this country, on a large scale, and the carcasses are slaughtered at Barracas, a suburb of Paris. The carcasses are then put into a refrigerator where the temperature is from 20 degrees to 30 degrees below zero. They are left there until they are frozen solid to the caput and are sent over in refrigerator ships. The sales are made principally in Havre, Rouen and Paris. Many of the towns of France import dressed meat, and the animals are slaughtered at Barracas, a suburb of Paris. The carcasses are then put into a refrigerator where the temperature is from 20 degrees to 30 degrees below zero. 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